

NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRE STANDARDS & TRAINING COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MEETING

June 9, 2005

(Approved September 1, 2005)

Members Present: David Duquette, Stephen Carrier, Kevin Pratt, Al Burbank, Peter Russell, George Sykes, J. William Degnan, Richard Mason.

Members Absent: Edward Murdough, Karen Schlitzer, Brad Simpkins, Earl Sweeney, Scott Weden, John Hoglund, Joseph Butts.

Others Present: *Division of Fire Standards & Training*--Bruce McPherson, Bureau Chief; Heather Newland, Recording Secretary. Harold Harbour, Fire Chief (Retired), Tilton/Northfield.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Item 1. Call to Order. The meeting of the New Hampshire Fire Standards & Training Commission was called to order by Chair David Duquette at 10:21 a.m. on Thursday, June 9, 2005 at the Richard M. Flynn Fire Academy, Classroom 5, 222 Sheep Davis Road, Concord, NH. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- (a) **Item 1. May 5, 2005. Motion** was made by Commissioner Burbank, seconded by Commissioner Russell, to approve the Minutes of the May 5, 2005 Commission meeting with the following change: Page 5, Item 4—Curriculum Review, (g), third sentence, change “TtT” to “Train-the-Trainer.” Motion passed unanimously.
- (b) **Item 2. Reports.** Chair Duquette noted that, if anyone is giving a report at a Commission meeting, they are to forward a copy of that report to the Recording Secretary, Heather Newland, so she may insert it in the Minutes.

- (c) **Item 3. April 7, 2005 Commission Minutes.** It was noted that the April 7, 2005 Commission Minutes as posted on the website indicates that it is a draft copy. That should be changed to “Approved May 5, 2005.”

III. CHAIR’S REMARKS

Chair Duquette stated last Thursday, Bill Goldfeder made a presentation for the NH Fire Chiefs Association on firefighter safety. It was well received.

Chair Duquette reminded everyone that Commissioner Murdough has had back surgery. He asked that we keep him in our thoughts and prayers. Chair Duquette also announced that Commissioner Simpkins and his wife recently had a baby girl.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Item 1. Emergency Medical Services. Chair Duquette deferred to Commissioner Burbank to report on EMS. Commissioner Burbank said he had nothing new to report. The national protocols are still on the agenda.

Chair Duquette said that one of the new catch terms is “best practices.” They are really Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs). They are looking at adopting them as a guideline, not as a mandatory item.

Item 2. Fire Marshal’s Office. Director Degnan gave his report as follows:

- (a) This past month we have seen three significant issues related to hazardous materials and potential exposure to firefighters in the event of a release. We have been working to mitigate the issues with local and state agencies.
- (b) This legislative session did not fare well for bills of the fire service.
 - (1) HB 442 Statute of Limitations for fire code violations made it all the way through the process with many hours from our office, local fire and police officials, and the Attorney General's office, only to be tabled at the last session of the Senate.
 - (2) HB 574 Burn Injury reporting also received tremendous support from fire officials and with the House Committee, the Hospital Association, and the Medical Society; a reasonable bill was approved. This bill came out of committee in the Senate Ought to Pass, and was tabled at the last session.
 - (3) The position of fire protection engineer with the supporting fee structure did not get added into the budget.

- (c) We have had several questions on the use of gas grills on balconies at apartment buildings. We have distributed an Informational Bulletin to fire departments with the Code section that prohibits the use.
- (d) We have had fireworks issues with store inspections. Yesterday there was a fire in a truck transporting the devices in Hillsborough. There were no placards, extreme hazard to firefighters.
- (e) School safety is a priority for the State Board of Education. This is evident in the stand that they are taking in support of fire safety and structural deficiencies that have been identified in a local school. The structural deficiencies are some that may be found in many buildings constructed in the 70's when they did not insulate roofs and depended on heat loss to keep the snow load down.

Item 3. Forest Protection Bureau. Commissioner Simpkins was absent.

Item 4. Curriculum Review. Chair Duquette reported that the Curriculum Status Report is in each Commission member's packet and is as follows:

- (a) Driver/Operator:
 - (1) Pumps:
No classes scheduled at this time.
 - (2) Aerial Apparatus:
A visiting committee has had its first meeting to decide on a method and a delivery approach. Curriculum will be discussed next.
- (b) Hazardous Materials:
 - (1) Operations:
This program is well underway at this point with no problems reported.
 - (2) Technician:
The trailer is proving to be a valuable asset and will be an on-going work in progress; a new larger trailer has been ordered in order to contain the ever-growing demand of Hazardous Materials and Weapons of Mass Destruction.
- (c) Aircraft Rescue & Fire Fighting:
A number of Part 139 FAA classes have been approved for this spring and Summer. A 40-hour class is scheduled for this summer, hopefully we can fill it.
- (d) NFPA 1030 Series:
 - (1) NFPA 1031, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspectors and Plan Examiners:
At this point classes will be scheduled periodically as they consistently fill up. Inspector II Visiting Committee has started the process. The first three days will be cognitive and class activities, the last two days will cover Citations.
 - (2) NFPA 1033, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator:
Visiting Committee met Friday, April 8 and has discussed their next course of action, which is reviewing the New York State curriculum. They will meet again in early June.
 - (3) NFPA 1035, Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator:

Will probably follow the 1033 standard.

Commissioner Sykes stated he had nothing new to report at this time.

- (e) Rescue Series:
 - (1) Structural Collapse:
No pilots scheduled as yet.
 - (2) Confined Space:
There was a class in Portsmouth in October, 2004.
 - (3) Technical Rope Rescue:
Curriculum was approved at the May 5, 2005 Commission meeting.
 - (f) NFPA 1001 Firefighter I and Firefighter II:
Train-the-Trainers have been successful thus far with over 250 instructors attending both at the Academy and in the field from Littleton to Hollis. These programs are doing well.
 - (g) NFPA 1021 Fire Officer:
This program was very successful in October 2004. The course went well and was very successful in Burlington Vermont as well. We will be doing a TtT for Vermont soon. The class in Manchester Fire was very successful.
 - (h) NFPA 1041 Instructor:
A bridge class will be offered this June 21&22, and an Instructor III in the Fall. An Instructor I visiting should be forming soon.
- Commissioner Carrier said he had no report at this time.
- (i) NFPA 1051 Wildland Firefighter:
Ready to go.

Item 5. Retreat. No new report until the September Commission meeting.

V. REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

Item 1. Director's Report #92. The Director's Report was as follows:

WOW! What a great weekend after so much cold and dampness! I hope we see more sun and warmth after shoveling so much this past winter. We are winding down a little and hope to use the summer to catch up on things that are hard to do with so much activity.

- 1) CONGRESSIONAL STAFFER ON CAMPUS
Periklis Karoutas of Congressman Jeb Bradley's office spent about two hours here on May 24, 2005 to tour the facility and observe the Recruit class in action. He is a project manager for the office and is watching for applicable grants for our office. This was a great PR activity and I appreciated his time on campus!
- 2) RECRUIT SCHOOL
June 17 at 7:00 p.m. will be the graduation of this year's Recruit School. C2F2 started Monday with 24 students. Passing Firefighter I were 27 students and Firefighter II were 44 students.

3) PUBLIC HEARING

June 2, 2005 we held two public hearings for the proposed changes in Introduction to Technical Rescue Skills (ITRS). The 2:00 p.m. hearing had four commission members, several staff members, and Exeter's Assistant Chief Wilking in attendance. Commissioner Burbank opened the hearing; there was no testimony offered so the hearing was closed at 2:20 p.m. The 6:30 p.m. hearing had three Commission members, two staff members, and Merrimack's Deputy Chief Fraitzl present. Commissioner Pratt opened the hearing; no testimony was offered, so he closed the hearing at 6:20 p.m.

4) NH HOUSE – CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

The annual Public Comment Meeting with the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee of the NH House of Representatives was held at 7:00 p.m. on June 2, 2005. There were seven Committee members in attendance, three Commission members, two staff members, Merrimack's Deputy Chief Fraitzl, and Retired Fire Chief Mert Dyer.

Committee Vice Chair John Tholl opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m., and there were no speakers so he closed the meeting. I gave some cursory highlights of our past year; then Mert Dyer spoke about Homeland Security, which led to a lengthy discussion about many topics. Vice Chair Tholl "re-closed" the meeting about 8:00 p.m.

5) PERSONNEL

As you are aware, Eric Wilking left our employment to go to Exeter Fire Department. Captain Anderson has assumed most of Eric's former responsibilities. Deering Deputy Fire Chief Robert Pragoff has been hired to assume the Captain's role for special projects for our Division. He will start on June 24. Welcome to Bob. He will be introduced at your September meeting.

Have a great summer!

Other items discussed were:

- 6) ITRS—At the last Commission meeting it was discussed how students in the program may not be EMTs. Out of 589 ITRS students, 53 were not EMTs, which is nine percent.
- 7) TEMSIS—There will be a demonstration on TEMSIS today following lunch.
- 8) C2F2 EXTENSION REQUEST—Director Mason read a letter dated May 12, 2005, which was received May 17, 2005, from Newport Fire Chief Peter Lamb asking for an extension on career firefighter certification for Firefighter J. David McCrillis until July 6, 2006. Firefighter McCrillis was hired on July 5, 2004. He is currently in a Firefighter II program, and then would go to a C2F2 program.

Motion was made by Commissioner Russell, seconded by Commissioner Pratt, to approve an extension until July 6, 2006 for career firefighter certification for Firefighter J. David McCrillis of the Newport Fire Department as requested by Chief Peter Lamb in a letter dated May 12, 2005. Motion passed unanimously.

- 9) HOUSE BILL 303—This bill changes terminology to meet the law in the Administrative Rules so everything will be fire service personnel will meet all the criteria. Fire service personnel is defined in RSA 21-P:5. It will allow for the creation of a waiver. At the September Commission meeting, that I believe takes affect January 1st of next year. So at the September meeting, we'll want the terminology we want for the waiver. The bill has been approved by both the House and the Senate; it is just waiting for the Governor's signature.
- 10) VOLUNTARY RESIDENCY—Commissioner Russell asked what type of voluntary residency we are having for our career firefighter programs. Director Mason answered that it is 80 percent.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Item 1. ITRS/EMTs. Chair Duquette stated that we have to discuss the ITRS program again at the September 1, 2005 Commission meeting. He stated that his association, Professional Firefighters of NH, feels it should not be a requirement to be an EMT to participate in an ITRS program. Commissioner Carrier noted that he received 12 responses from the Fire Instructors & Officers Association, and ten of those thought EMT should be a part of the program. He said that we should try to remember that ITRS does not have any EMT requirement now. This issue will be on the agenda in September.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

None.

VIII. GOOD OF THE ORDER

Item 1. Academy Awards. Chair Duquette reminded everyone that the deadline for submitting names for Academy Awards recipients was yesterday, June 8. He asked that names be submitted to Director Mason as soon as possible. Commissioner Carrier asked that Director Mason send everyone a list of all the previous recipients.

Item 2. Technical Rescue Teams. Director Degnan announced that Chief Scott Clarenbach, Franklin Fire Department, would like to establish Technical Rescue Teams on a regional basis. Director Degnan said we have something that can support this. It would require the same

equipment as the Fire Academy currently has. The equipment would be kept in one centrally located area.

Item 3. Relay for Life. Director Mason thanked everyone for the support for the Relay for Life. They raised \$17,000.00 for cancer research.

Item 4. Storm. Commissioner Russell asked what everyone saw in his or her areas because of the storm with heavy rain. Some discussion was held on this.

Item 4. Upper Valley. Commissioner Sykes stated if you were interested in doing something for the Relay for Life, you can do the one in the Upper Valley, which is floating down the Connecticut River.

Item 5. NH State Firemen's Convention. Director Degnan announced that Lebanon will be hosting the NH State Firemen's Convention in September 2005.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Commissioner Burbank, seconded by Commissioner Pratt, to adjourn at 11:23 a.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard A. Mason, Director

Items distributed at meeting:

1. Agenda 06/09/05
2. Minutes of Meeting – 05/05/05 – DRAFT--Not Approved
3. Curriculum Status Report 06/02/05
4. Minutes of Meeting – 04/07/05 – Approved 05/05/05
5. Director's Report #92—June 9, 2005
6. Number of Personnel Certified in NH 07/01/04 to 06/09/05
7. Commission Meeting Schedule – 2005
8. Facility Safety Management Article: "Many Firefighters With Known Heart Problems Go To Work"
9. "The Weekly Scene May 20, 2005": "An Honor for George" Rouses
10. FMO Informational Bulletin 2005-04; May 30, 2005; "Grill Use At Multifamily Occupancies Such As Apartments and Condominiums"